

accompanied the lady home to Dartmouth Street, descending to the basement for immediate duty. It was late in the evening, and tea was served to suit, with the aid of the "second girl," who knew the ways of the house. What was the latter's surprise when the dishes were washed to find that the new cook did not use soap to cleanse them, as she expressed it. "Soap! why, you don't use it on plates and cups that you eat and drink from?" ejaculated the cook, and the matter ended.

Retiring together, the two girls were naturally, or unnaturally, quite familiar, but nothing occurred worthy of remark until the fresh cook doffed her outward habiliments of servitude, revealing to her astonished companion an array of elegant underwear little dreamed of as belonging to a hired girl. But the young woman kept her own counsel, the morning dawned, and breakfast was got and served pretty much as the last evening's tea was. The dishes were washed without soap, as before, and when the lieutenant suggested that Mrs. — expected the hearth to be washed after every service of the range, the new-comer uncomplainingly stooped to and did the repulsive work. But there was a dinner to be prepared, and the preliminaries had begun under the mistress's direction, as was to be expected with a new and untried servant. The difficult details had not progressed far, however, when the "cook" suddenly exclaimed that she had her trunk to get at the Providence Depot, and was excused to obtain it. It is needless to say that the delicate girl did not return, the responsibilities of an elaborate dinner upon her shoulders having frightened her away, and the cooking was finished without her. Later in the day, a carriage drove to the door, and a distressed lady alighted. It was the "cook's" mother. The lamb had returned home, and the strange occurrence was tearfully explained.

OCCUPATION—How many persons there are in this world who entirely ignore the golden search for genial occupation! They are almost constantly striving after something which is entirely different from what they are capable of enjoying. We are not opposed to enterprise, but it is the habit of constantly changing from one thing to another against which we protest. There are thousands of men, and women, too, who are to-day fast approaching the grave, and who are striving and toiling to keep soul and body together until the last hour, because it has been their habit all through life to be discontented. In their time they have tried perhaps a hundred different things, and all with little or no success; while, if they had chosen one pursuit, and devoted their time and attention exclusively to it, they would to-day, in all probability, be spending their declining years in ease, surrounded with all the wants and comforts of life; for there is scarcely a single pursuit that, if followed with some purpose, will not yield a golden future.

UNPUNCTUAL PEOPLE—You may take it for granted that unpunctual people are thoroughly selfish. Their own inclinations are paramount to the convenience of others. The unpunctual man is apt to think that the greatest evil he occasions, by his special infirmity, is temporary inconvenience or disappointment. But this is not so. If one of his delays should disturb only the arrangements for one day of a single person, he may congratulate himself. What bitter disappointment and what serious annoyance and loss, may come from a letter a little too late for the mail—a bill paid after the promised time—an appointment not kept—a commission deferred! Note for yourself, and think on these things. Punctual people are always reliable. Do all that you promise to do, and all that you are rightfully required and expected to do, as certainly, so far as it depends upon yourself, as the sun rises and sets, so that the hearts of all with whom you are in any way connected may safely trust in you. Then you will become "pillars of support" in the family and in society, instead of broken reeds. Let your word be as good as your bond, and when you say you will do a thing, *do it*.

Sweet Obesity.

Pumpiness, such as would be considered exuberant in the cold and critical north of Europe, constitutes the popular ideal of female beauty in the Regency of Tunis. Among marriageable young ladies of that province slenderness of form and delicacy of proportion are regarded with justifiable aver-

sion, as disqualifications for the wedded state. The fatter a maiden the better is her chance of making a good and early match. To be abnormally obese is to be certain of drawing a prize in the matrimonial market, and the loveliest liteness remains unwedded, while homely corpulence can pick and choose from among a throng of eligible suitors. How deep a root this predilection for capacious charms has struck in the Tunisian manly bosom may be gathered from the fact that widowers, desirous to marry again, should they haply, moved by family or pecuniary considerations, select a bride whose dimensions are reported to fall something short of those to which their previous experience had accustomed them, are wont to send the "dear departed's" girdle and bracelet to the parents of their too exiguous betrothed. On receipt of these articles, conveying a delicate hint that it might be expedient to make up for nature's shortcomings by some judicious treatment, the bride's papa and mamma proceed to fatten her with assiduity and despatch. For some weeks she leads the life of a Strasburg goose; and when she has attained the necessary goodly proportions her nuptials are celebrated to the entire satisfaction of everybody concerned in them.—*London Telegraph*.

The Exchange of Courtesies.

A story is told of an exchange of courtesy between a Scotch minister and his parishioner which is characteristic of both. The minister was but lately inducted into a country living, and in his round of parochial visits called at the cottage of a little tailor. Taking a seat uninvited, he proceeded to talk, but found it hard work, as he met with no response. The tailor sat upon the table, stitching in sulky silence. At length he spoke. "Sir," he said, "I regard it as an unwarrantable intrusion your entering my house, and I ask you in what capacity you come?" "My good man," was the reply, "I came as your parish clergyman—it is my duty to know all my parishioners. I know you don't attend church, but that is no reason why we should not be friends." To which the tailor responded: "I dinna regard ye as a minister of Christ, but as a servant of satan's, if ye come as a gentleman well and good, but as a minister I refuse to receive you," which could hardly be called courteous, but the tailor's politeness was outrivaled by his minister's, who rising, said: "My good fellow, be pleased to understand that it is only as your parish clergyman that I ever dreamt of visiting you; when I visit as a gentleman I don't visit persons in your position in society," with which he departed.

✦ **MODIFIED BY CIRCUMSTANCES**—There is no doubt that the early riser accomplishes more work than does his less energetic neighbor; for as the old proverb has it, the morning hour has gold in its mouth. Still it is one of those things which by common consent are set very high in the list of desirable virtues, and yet which are open to certain doubts and objections. Early rising, unless preceded by early bedtime and sound sleep, may be unhealthful. Delicate children should never be awakened till they have fully had their sleep out, and nature will then awaken them. We do not underestimate the pleasure and propriety of having the family all seated at once at the breakfast hour; but if one or two people in the house, by reason of engagements, must sally forth very early, it is often better to let them have their morning meal by themselves, while others rise and breakfast later. Many a worn and ailing mother, whose sleep is disturbed by the cares of her nursery, owes it to herself and to her family to take her morning nap, and to make up the arrears of repose by late rising. No one who regards his health will sit up till midnight and rise at dawn. Overwork is slow suicide. It is better to rise at eight o'clock in the freshness of renovated powers, than to rise at five, jaded, aching and half-asleep, to drag wearily through the first quarter of the day, doing nothing well, and exasperating one's friends by fretfulness and fault-finding. If you wish to indulge in the luxury of early rising, go to bed early, that your rest may be sufficient for your strength.

If you want to find a great many faults, be on the look-out, but if you want to find them in unlimited quantities, be on the look-in.